

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

April 29, 2003 LB 407

as to how far we can go without not and not be providing adequate education, particularly for the future generations. The generations behind us have furnished us our education in good times and bad, and certainly these are difficult times in our economy today, but I think the question you have to ask yourself, what kind of education are we going to provide for our young people now and through their college years, through their community college years, wherever they intend to go, what kind of commitment are we making for our future? Certainly these difficult times will come and they will go, and none of us knows when improved times are going to come. Some of us are enheartened by this rain today, for example. But the issue is I think much of this we'll have to debate on the philosophical basis. And I know there's going to be questions about the depth that we went into the budget, particularly in the operations side, and I'll certainly be happy to answer those questions in detail. We did examine severe cuts to most of our institutions and decided that they were too severe, and so we have more modest cuts in K-12 education and in higher education than the Governor offered. But suffice it to say that if we are to take a significant amount of additional cuts it would be, from our committee's perspective, it will have to be out of higher education and the K-12 ed, education aid, because there are just nowhere else to go with those kind of significant amounts of cuts. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I think I will open it for comments, questions, or particularly amendments. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. As stated by the Clerk, there are committee amendments offered by the Appropriations Committee to LB 407. Mr. Clerk. Senator Wehrbein, you have not opened on the committee amendments yet, so...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I intended to open on the committee amendments in this last...in about the second half of my comments, Mr. Speaker.

SENATOR CUDABACK: For the record, you can open on them right now, if you take two seconds or three seconds, whatever.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: For the record, I'm opening on the committee